

U.S. Army Europe leadership salutes Heidelberg medics for earning title of Army's best

By Staff Sgt. Patricia Deal

U.S. Army Europe Public Affairs Office

HEIDELBERG, Germany -- Gen. Carter Ham, commander of U.S. Army Europe (left), and USAREUR Command Sgt. Maj. Ralph Beam (right) pose for a photo with the "best medics in the Army" -- Sgt. Charles Smith



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(second from right) and Staff Sgt. Bjoern Pietrzyk. The general invited the two Soldiers from the Heidelberg Medical Department Activity to his office here Oct. 30 to congratulate them for beating 12 other teams from regional medical commands and organizations across the Army in earning their title at the Expert Field Medical Competition at Camp Bullis, Texas, Oct. 19-23.

Lt. Gen. Eric B. Schoomaker, the U.S. Army Surgeon General, also took time during a visit in Heidelberg to personally congratulate the two Soldiers, Oct. 28.

Pietrzyk, a health care specialist, attributed his ability to persevere through the intense 72-hour Army competition to Smith, a radiology specialist. "He was a great motivator," Pietrzyk said. "Always there for me."

Smith in turn praised Pietrzyk's support in helping him through the challenging contest. "All the different phases of the competition were tough -- mentally and physically. It was definitely a help to have your battle buddy supporting you," he said.



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